(c) Muriate of Potash is a by-product of saltpetre industry confined to the States of Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. The question has not been examined by this Government.

S.S.L.C. Examination

* 2257 Q.—Sri K. VINAYAKAM (on behalf of Sri A. A. RASHEED) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the report of the Madras Public Service Commission wherein they have observed that the standard of the students who have passed the S.S.L.C. Examination is far below the average; and

(b) if so, the action taken to improve the standard in the high schools?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report relates to the performance of the candidates who appeared for the S.S.L.C. Public Examination, 1958, or before, when the objective type of questions was in force. It has since been decided by the Board of Secondary Education that question papers should contain questions requiring answers of the essay type and that such questions should carry a major portion of marks alloted for the purpose. In addition there will be a few questions requiring short answers, but not one-word answers. This revision in the type of question has been introduced from the S.S.L.C. Public Examination held in March 1959. Further, under the Reorganized Course of Secondary Education, introduced in 1959, English is to be taught from Standard V. An objective appraisal of the progress achieved under the new scheme can be made only when the candidates educated fully under the new Scheme appear for the Competitive Examinations held by the Madras Public Service Commission.

Sri K. VINAYAKAM : Sir, having given up this kind of essay writing and having taken to one-word answers for some time past, even the teachers who handle high school classes have not been able to come up to the standard required by the University or by the Public Service Commission. Would the Government think of the possibility of giving a re-training to the teachers who handle high school classes and to whom the students are entrusted? Then only we can think about the materials produced by such teachers.

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : Persons who handle English are graduates and they have got B.T. degrees also Therefore, I do not know whether the hon. Member is correct in saying that teachers are not properly qualified. But I do agree that even the teachers, who had undergone training do require refresher courses and this is also being done under the Extension Service Scheme.

12th December 1961]

Sri K. ANBAZHAGAN: கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, உயர் நிலைப் பள்ளிகளிலே பயிலுகின்ற மாணவர்களுடைய தரம் குறைவதற்கு, அவர்கள் அதிகமாக கட்டுரைகள் எழுதி பயிற்சி பெற முடியாமல் இருப்பதும், அவர்கள் எழுதுகின்ற கட்டுரைகள், பல மாணவர்கள் இருப்பதின் காரணமாக, ஆசிரியர்களால் முழு கவனத்துடன் திருத்தப்படாமல் இருப்பதும் தான் காரணம் என்பது அமைச்சர் அவர்களின் கவனத்திற்கு வந்ததா? அப்படி அவர்கள் அதிக மாக கட்டுரைகள் எழுதுவதற்கும், அவைகளை ஒழுங்காக திருத்துவதற்கும் தேவையான அளவுக்கு ஆசிரியர்களுக்கு வசதி தர அரசாங்கம் முன்வருமா?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM: ஆசிரியர்கள் வசதிக் குறைவால் இது ஏற்பட்டது என்று இதுவரைக்கும் புகார் வர வில்லை. இதிலே இப்பொழுது தான் 'ஸிலபஸ்' மாற்றி அமைக்கப் பட்டு, இப்பொழுது புதிய முறையிலே சொல்லிக்கொடுப்பதற்கு ஏற்பாடு செய்யப்பட்டு வருகிறது. அத்துடன் இப்பொழுது ஆசிரியர்களுக்கு சம்பள உயர்வு, மற்ற சலுகைகள் கொடுத்திருப்ப தின் காரணமாக புதிய உற்சாகம் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது என்பதை நான் காண்கிறேன்.

Sri K. Vinayakam: Sir, is the Government aware of the fact that the deterioration in the general standard of the high school students is not due to want of proper teachers but due to the change in the curriculum like concentration more upon extra-curricular activities other than class work? Would the Government revise their policy and then put in more class work study inside the classes with the aid of books, instead of wasting their time on extra-curricular activities, which do not stand anybody in good stead in future?

The Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam: I am not an educational expert. But emphasis is also laid on extra-curricular activities which give training to the students with regard to various problem in life. I do not know whether any extra-curricular activities are being organized at the cost of the text-book lessons. My own impression is that the text-book lessons also are being taught and sufficient importance is given to them. There is no use of making this kind of generalised statement. It is a matter which has got to be properly scrutinised and it is only after scrutiny the present syllabus has been drawn up and other activities also are taken so that it may fit in with the syllabus.

Southern Zonal Council

*2258 *Q*.—**Sri S. M. ANNAMALAI:** கனம் நிதி அமைச்சர் தயவுசெய்து கீழ்க்கண்ட கேள்விக்குப் பதிலளிப்பாரா—

1961-ம் ஆண்டு செப்டம்பர் மாதத்தில் பெங்களூரில் நடந்த தென் மண்டலக் கவுன்சில் கூட்டத்தில் விவாதிக்கப்பட்ட விஷயங்கள் யாவை?